

June 7, 1993

MEMORANDUM

GMP #28

TO: District Directors
Environmental Health Managers
Environmental Health Supervisor
Environmental Health Specialist

FROM: Donald J. Alexander, Director
Division of Onsite Sewage and Water Services

SUBJECT: Sampling Port Requirements
Discharge - Design - Sampling Ports

A number of questions have arisen regarding the requirements for sampling ports on ATUs that have received preliminary or general approval from the division. The following should clarify the requirements for sampling ports.

Chlorine Residual Sampling - The ATUs on our approval sheet have met NSF Standard 40 and are acceptable for installation in Virginia only if they meet all other design requirements in the Alternative Discharging Sewage Treatment Regulations for Single Family Dwellings (DSTR). § 3.9.I of the DSTR requires that all discharging systems be equipped with a 6" diameter sampling port connected to the effluent collection box after the required chlorine contact time. Also a port and collection box is required after the dechlorinator. The intent of this section is to provide a means for sampling all discharging systems for chlorine residual. If plans are submitted which do not include these ports and boxes or some other method for sampling, the construction plans should not be approved, nor should a construction permit be issued. If a construction permit has been issued, or if the ports were overlooked during review of the plans, then the ports must be added to the system before an operation permit is issued. These sampling ports may or may not be an integral part of an ATU. For instance, a system which is approved with its own built-in chlorine contact tank and dechlorinator, would need to have a sample port 6" in diameter and collection box prior to dechlorination. If the construction plans do not show this, the plans are not acceptable and should not be approved.

Mixed Liquor Suspended Solids Sampling - § 3.11 B.2. of the DSTR requires informal testing of the mixed liquor suspended solids (MLSS). In order to accomplish this, a sample port or other means for accessing the aeration tank must be provided to allow sampling of the MLSS. The Division does not recommend removing any mechanical or electrical equipment in order to do this because a safety hazard may exist and damage to the equipment may occur. It is acceptable, however, to remove the access covers, which are not connected to mechanical or electrical equipment, to sample for MLSS. An existing system which is in compliance with the general permit and appears to be operating properly, would not be required to add the sampling port. If an existing system is not functioning properly or not in compliance with the general permit a sample port may be required.

pc: Office of Environmental Health Staff
Environmental Health Program Managers
Office of Water Programs, Field Offices
Division of Wastewater Engineering

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